

Regional Transportation Planning Guidelines Checklist

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines are developed to provide guidance to all 43 Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs). However, there is a wide range of geographic sizes and populations of these agencies. (The following population data is from the Department of Finance, January 1999) For example, population figures ranges from 1,190 (Alpine County) to 16,545,100 (Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)). Geographic sizes ranges from 592.6 square miles (Amador County) to 38,140.7 square miles (SCAG).

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), a nine county Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), covers 6,922.9 square miles and has a population of 6,784,700. Inyo County Local Transportation Commission, a small non-urban RTPA has a land area of 10,192 square miles with a population of 18,250. The Amador County Transportation Commission, the smallest RTPA with a land area of 593 square miles, has a population of 34,050.

In addition to size and population differences, air quality issues affect the transportation planning process. For example, most large areas are subject to federal conformity requirements due to present or past violations of air quality standards. Those with serious and worse designations are subject to additional requirements with respect to plan specificity and analytical requirements.

Generally, the RTPs for the smaller rural regions reflect a far less complex transportation system and therefore are less complex than the major metropolitan regions. Whatever the area size, population and air quality issues, each region determines the complexity of its transportation planning requirements by the development of its RTP.

These Guidelines are developed to address all aspects of developing a Regional Transportation Plan. Each RTPA has the responsibility of choosing those planning components that facilitate the development of a plan that best meets the needs of their specific region and supports project justification for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

To establish a minimum standard for developing the Regional Transportation Plan, a checklist of transportation planning requirements has been developed. Appendix A includes this Checklist and also includes a summary of the statutory requirements and recommendations in the guidelines that have been established by State, federal legislation and the California Transportation Commission.

Government Code Section 14032(a) authorizes the CTC to request an evaluation of all Regional Transportation Plans statewide to be conducted by Caltrans. This evaluation should include an analysis of the areas listed in Appendix D.

To assist Caltrans in its evaluation of the Regional Transportation Plans, the Checklist should be completely filled out and submitted with the adopted RTP.

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Planning Requirements

Regional Transportation Plan Checklist

A. Regional Transportation Plan Components

Yes

No

1. Provides a coordinated and balanced transportation system.
2. Is action oriented.
3. Contains a short-term (10-year) time horizon
4. Contains a long-term (20-year) time horizon
5. Includes a Policy Element.
6. Includes an Action Element.
7. Includes a Financial Element.
8. The RTP of the MPO considers strategies to meet the seven planning factors specified in Title 23, 134(f) of the U.S. Code.
9. The RTP conforms to the State Implementation Plan (SIP).
10. The RTP of the MPO is consistent with the Civil Rights Act as identified in Title 23, CFR Sec. 450.316(b)(2).
11. The RTP of the MPO identifies actions necessary to meet the ADA as identified in Title 23, CFR Sec. 450.316(b)(3).
12. The RTP of the MPO considers, analyzes and reflects the social and environmental effects including housing, employment, community development, land use, central city development goals, etc.

Comments / Explanations:

B. Public Involvement

Yes

No

1. The RTP of the MPO includes a public involvement program that meets the requirements of Title 23, CFR Sec. 450.316(b)(1).
2. The RTP for a nonattainment area is based on consultation with air and environmental agencies and the public during all stages of development.

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B. Public Involvement (continued)

Yes

No

3. Where there are Native American Tribal Governments within the RTP boundaries, the tribal concerns have been addressed and the Plan was developed in cooperation with the tribal Government(s) and the Secretary of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs) (Title 23, CFR Sec. 134, 135(e)).
4. The RTP includes opportunities for citizen involvement in the early stages of plan development.
5. The RTP for a nonattainment area identifies consultation with air agencies on the development of the plan.
6. The RTP for a nonattainment area reflects coordination with local and regional air quality planning authorities.

Comments / Explanations:

C. Policy Element

1. Describes the transportation issues in the region.
2. Identifies regional needs.
3. Maintains internal consistency with the financial element fund estimates.
4. Has objectives linked to the 10-year time frame.
5. Has objectives linked to the 20-year time frame.

Comments / Explanations:

D. Action Element

1. Addresses needs.
2. Is consistent with the adopted regional transportation goals.
3. Is consistent with the regional transportation policies.
4. Is consistent with the financial constraints.
5. Conforms to the revenues identified in the Financial Element.

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D. Action Element (continued)

Yes

No

6. Conforms to the costs in the Financial Element.
7. Includes a discussion of Highways.
8. Includes a discussion of Mass Transportation.
9. Includes a discussion of Aviation Transportation.
10. Includes a discussion of pedestrian needs.
11. Includes a discussion of non motorized transportation.
12. Includes a discussion of Rail Transportation.
13. Includes a discussion of Maritime Transportation.
14. Includes a discussion of Goods Movement.

Comments / Explanations:

E. Consistency Requirement

1. The first four years identified in the Financial Element is consistent with the four-year STIP fund estimates adopted by the CTC.
2. The Goal Statements are consistent with the Financial Element.
3. The Policy Statements are consistent with the Financial Element.
4. The Objective Statements are consistent with the Financial Element.
5. The projects included in the ITIP are consistent with the RTP.
6. The projects included in the RTIP are consistent with the RTP.

Comments / Explanations:

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F. Performance Measurement

Yes

No

1. Includes objective criteria for measuring system outcomes.

Comments / Explanations:

G. Environmental Considerations

1. Contains the appropriate environmental documentation.
2. Discusses the way the plan will conform to the State Implementation Plan including TCM implementation.
3. RTPs for nonattainment areas document coordination with the ARB to ensure conformity with the SIP.

Comments / Explanations:

H. Supporting Data

1. The RTP includes or identifies supporting documents.

Comments / Explanations:
